ABSTRACT

A drilling mud diverter and method of use for horizontal drilling operations wherein drilling muds are diverted to a single portal of the bore where the drilling muds are recovered for removal or reprocessing, the mud diverter having a diverter unit with a central cylindrical core with enlarged end caps and an inflatable bladder mounted on the core, the diverter unit having a bypass passage through the unit blocked by a pressure relief valve that allows drilling muds blocked by the diverter unit to pass through the unit only when a preset pressure is reached; the method of use including the procedure for installing the mud diverter into an enlarged bore using the drilling pipe and removing the mud diverter using the drilling pipe, cables or other alternative equipment.